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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Noah P. MONTENA

Serial No.: 09/621,975

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: July 21, 2000

Examiner: To be assigned

For: CONNECTION AND METHOD  
OF OPERATION

Attorney Docket No.: 8958-026-999

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, and the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, enclosed is a revised Form 1449 which includes all the references which are cited in parent application serial no. 08/910,509, filed August 2, 1997. Copies of these references have already been submitted in the earlier case. The following additional references, copies of which are submitted herewith, are also listed on the attached revised Form 1449: U.S. Patent Nos. 4,156,554; 4,354,721; 4,408,821; 5,338,225; 5,607,325; 5,586,910; and 5,863,220; and foreign patent documents GB 2,019,665 and European Patent No. 0 265 276.

The citation of the listed documents is not to be construed as an admission that such documents are necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§ 1.104(a) and 1.106(b).

Moreover, identification of the listed documents is not to be construed as an admission by Applicants or Attorneys for Applicants that such documents are available as "prior art" against the subject application. Consequently, Applicants decline to use Form PTO-1449, which identifies all the documents cited as "Prior Art." As an alternative,

Applicants submit a "revised form PTO-1449" entitled "List of References Cited By Applicants."

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review these references and make them of record in the file history of the present application. Return of an initialed copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449, indicating the Examiner's consideration of the documents listed thereon, is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, this submission precedes the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits and thus complies with the requirements for filing of an information disclosure statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). It is estimated that no fee is due, however, should the Patent Office determine otherwise, please charge the required fee to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Date September 11, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

Gail H. Barick, Reg. No. 43,303  
for Thomas E. Friebe  
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Enclosure